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January 28, 2002

Attention: Renata Hesse
Judge Kollar Kottely
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Judge Kollar Kottely:

I am baffled by the fact that the Microsoft antitrust suit has gone this far. Unfortunately, the lawsuit has had serious repercussions not only on Microsoft, but also on the economy and the tech sector in particular. It is time to bring closure to this case so the economy can begin to rebuild.

Even through the economic turmoil this case has created, the public has seen a variety of new products introduced by many different companies. There is *real* competition in the software industry. So many of us are now plugged into the web, a service that actually bombards us with free software and offers from hundreds of software companies. Many of us have unexpectedly become dependent upon high tech in our work and personal lives and are using products from a wide variety of companies.

Just think how much more innovation and creativity there will be in software and hardware when this lawsuit is ended and the threat of government intervention in the tech marketplace is shelved. I hope you will see to it to approve the settlement in this case. I believe it to be in the best public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Phillips', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard R. Phillips